



## AGM and MEMBERS EVENING

Welcome to the Third Millennium AD and a third year of Appleby Archaeology Group.

We kicked off the new year with our AGM which consisted of a short report on the groups current membership (56) followed by a summary of the groups activities in 1999 presented by Phyllis Rouston. We had a very successful year of talks, walks visits and activities which leaves us with the challenge of making this year even better! In the absence of a formal treasurer a printed financial report was presented by myself showing a profit of two pounds and thirty pence over the year! (If any member would like a copy of the financial report please contact me)

Members were reminded that this year's subscription is due by the end of January. If you have not already done so please send your subscription otherwise this will be the last newsletter that you will receive. We would hate to lose any members so please sign those cheques and send them to me at the address overleaf.

Committee members were re-elected as follows:

Martin Railton - Chairman  
Phyllis Rouston - Secretary  
Georgina Plowright - Publicity  
Unfortunately no nominations for treasurer were forthcoming but we are still hopeful.

It was suggested that membership of Appleby Archaeology Group was too cheap and that considering our limited finances we should put up the price of membership for next year. This seemed to be acceptable to most people present and will be put forward for consideration by members in 2001.



*"A varied and busy year for the group."*  
Members exploring the landscape of Shap Abbey

The AGM was followed by four talks by members of the group on diverse topics. Harry Hawkins shared some ideas about dating fields and walls. This was followed by a report on the Lakeland Gunpowder Industry by Alice Palmer and a paper on Early Literacy in Appleby by Barry McKay. Finally Georgina Plowright shared her research on the connection between John Clayton and the Atkinson family of Temple Sowerby.

During the break a raffle was drawn and some excellent prizes won by members also helping to give a much needed boost to the groups funds.

For those who were unable to attend, a report on the talks is included overleaf.

Martin Railton

### Local Heritage Initiative

A new grant scheme has been launched by the Countryside Agency to support small projects in Cumbria. These can include;

The restoration of built heritage features of local significance.

Surveying of archaeological features and providing interpretation.

The mapping of local heritage trails.

Researching local place names.

Preserving industrial heritage.

Appleby Archeology group is in an ideal position to carry out a local heritage project. There will be a special meeting to discuss possible projects and all members are invited to come along with their ideas.

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# TALKS BY MEMBERS OF APPLEBY ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

By Phyllis Rouston

## DATING FIELDS AND WALLS

The first speaker was Harry Hawkins his title Dating Fields and Walls.

Stone walls are a prominent feature of the Cumbrian landscape. The majority are less than 200 yrs old and were built when the land was enclosed in the eighteen twenties and thirties. Enclosure walls are easily recognised from their long straight lines and rectangular nature. Walls that do not conform to this pattern pose the questions of why they are there and when were they built?

The structure of a wall provides clues both to its date and function but dating is not possible from just looking at a wall. A study done in Derbyshire identified 5 types of wall covering a period from prehistory to the 18th century. Diagrams of the five types were shown.

Harry showed a series of slides to illustrate different types of wall seen locally and the features which give clues to the date of building.

The shape of the field may indicate the date for example strip fields suggest that a wall is post medieval but pre enclosures. The position of a wall on a bank, perhaps with a boundary stone at right angles may indicate an ancient boundary.

The functions of a wall may give clues. Walls which are wider and higher may define medieval deer parks, an example is seen at Crosby Ravensworth dated to the 14th century. Walls were built as stock enclosures and are often of an irregular shape. They are seen across the county and are difficult to date. In addition to the structure and the location, associated finds may help with dating for example a Romano-British wall may be dated by the artefacts

found in the vicinity.

The importance of looking at documentary evidence was stressed. Documents such as the enclosure awards, and estate maps are valuable resources and can pin-point the date of a wall.

Harry concluded by saying that there was little written specifically about stone walls and referred back to the Derbyshire study and its potential value for dating in this area.

## THE LAKELAND GUNPOWDER INDUSTRY

The second speaker was Alice Palmer who talked about The Lakeland Gunpowder Industry.

Alice gave an outline of the gunpowder industry in the south of the Lake District, which became established in the 18th century, founded in 1764 when John Wakefield opened gunpowder works at Sedgwick, the last to open was Black Beck in 1860. At one stage there were seven works in the area. The gun powder produced was used for military industrial and sporting practices. After the first world war demand declined and in 1937 the

*In the early years most of the gunpowder produced at Low Wood was exported to the slave trade.*

last mill at Gatebeck closed.

The manufacture of gunpowder depended on coppiced woodland and water power, both were available in the valleys of south Westmorland. The plentiful supply of coppiced woodland included juniper which made a very fine charcoal savin, which made the finest gunpowder. The other ingredients for gunpowder, saltpetre and sulphur were imported. The Leven and Kent estuaries were accessible for shipping and near to

Liverpool.

Alice then spoke of her research on the works at Low Wood which opened in 1789. She included biographical details of the people involved. Her source material was documentary and included business letters receipts and bills.

Four principals had put up the money. They were Christopher Wilson a banker in Kendal, James King an esquire from Liverpool with a background in accountancy, Daye Barker who was associated with the Lancashire cotton industry and Joseph Fayer who had connection with the triangular trade.

The triangular or slave trade involved the export of guns and gunpowder to West Africa, the capture and then transfer of slaves to the West Indies in exchange for luxury goods, such as sugar which were brought to Britain. In the early years most of the gunpowder produced at Low Wood was exported to the slave trade. In 1807 Britain abolished the slave trade. The principals of Low Wood seemed to be aware that the slave trade would be prohibited but it appears they saw their chance to make money and took it.

The gunpowder industry survived, and with increasing industrialisation demand grew. Low Wood prospered in the 19th century supplying a number of industries including quarrying, lead mining, coal mining in Lancashire and iron workings in Wales as well as game keepers and the military. In 1882 it was taken over by Wakefield.

## EARLY LITERACY IN CUMBRIA

In the third talk of the evening Barry McKay spoke of The evidence for Literacy in Cumbria from the 16th to the early 19th Century.



Barry discussed what is meant by the term literate and the evidence for literacy in the area. There is little firm statistical evidence and what there is open to question. The generally accepted view is that until the provision of compulsory education in the second half of the 19th century few people could read. The evidence for this is based on whether the marriage register was signed or marked. Barry doubted if this was an accurate guide and suggested that more people could read than write.

Wordsworth wrote that in Cumberland and Westmorland "almost every person can read". What is not clear is the level of literacy and the degree of comprehension. In 1676 Lady Anne Clifford bought 28 books of devotion to be given to her domestic servants which suggests that some servants, in Appleby, in late 17th century were able to read and understand.

There were a large number of schools in Cumbria in the 18th century so a significant number of the population received some education.

Before the 1800's there were circulating libraries across the area from Carlisle to Kendal and to the coast. A catalogue for a library in Kendal tells us that most books were instructional and educational. As well as circulating libraries a number of towns including Appleby and Kirby Stephen, had self financing book clubs and or subscription libraries in the 18th century.

Books were available for sale in some towns before 1700, and in the next century more than fifteen towns had a book retailer. Appleby's earliest bookseller, Lancelot Wilkinson has the dubious claim of being the first recorded in the area as to having had books stolen.

Wills and inventories for the Carlisle Diocese give an indication of book ownership before 1800. The majority belonged to clergymen, lawyers and gentlemen but books were also owned by tailors, masons and blacksmiths.

Chap books, usually sold for a penny, were widely read. They included popular songs and fanciful tales, 500 titles were produced mainly in Penrith

*The generally accepted view is that until the provision of compulsory education in the second half of the 19th century few people could read.*

between the 1760's and 1820.

In conclusion Barry suggested that more people had been able to read and understand what they were reading than had been previously thought.

#### THE CLAYTON CONNECTION

The evening concluded with a talk from Georgina Plowright on The Clayton Connection.

Georgina spoke of the links between John Clayton (1792-1890) a prominent citizen and lawyer in Newcastle, who became a keen amateur archaeologist and Mrs Bridget Atkinson of Temple Sowerby, an eighteenth century matriarch, collector and a founder member of the society of Antiquaries of Newcastle.

The first connection is through marriage. John Clayton's mother Dorothy, was the daughter of Bridget and George Atkinson. The Atkinsons were one of the main landowners in Temple Sowerby and references to them go back to Elizabeth I. Bridget had ten children and Dorothy eleven. The children did not all survive to adulthood but there was an large family. Bridget was the only surviving grandparent to Dorothy's children so it is not surprising that a bond was formed between the two households.

Some of the correspondence between the Claytons and Atkinsons survives. It confirms the close links and gives detailed insight into the lives of the two families. It also tells us that distance in the pre-railway era was no barrier to visiting one another. The links between the two families in-

creased with later marriages.

The second connection is collecting. In 1840 John Clayton began archaeological excavations at the Roman fort at Chesters which was on his father's estate. These continued for nearly fifty years. He excavated the curtain of Hadrian's Wall, its milecastles, turrets and four of the forts and by the end of his life he had amassed a substantial and academically important collection of Roman artefacts which are now on view at Chesters Museum. He bought land in the vicinity in an attempt to preserve it from depredation by local farmers who were using the stone for building.

Bridget was a collector in her own right and is known for her shell collection, on her death around 1818 her personal possessions went to her youngest unmarried daughter Jane Atkinson who in turn left her possessions to Sarah Anne Clayton sister of John. The presence of a substantial number of shells in the Clayton collection suggests that they were the remains of Bridget's collection.

Georgina concluded by mentioning a further connection between the two families. Some Romano-British items, found at the time of rebuilding of the bridge over Troutbeck at Kirby Thore in 1832, were distributed to Jane Atkinson and they later found their way into the Clayton collection.

#### *Apologies to all those members*

*who attended the meeting in February and were disappointed when the speaker did not show. Unfortunately we have not been able to contact Perceval Turnbull since the event but hope to re-arrange his talk for the Autumn.*



# SPRING EVENTS DIARY

## ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

The 27th Archaeology Conference of Lancaster University Centre for North-West Regional Studies will take place on **Saturday 4th March** in Lancaster between 9.15am and 4.40pm.

There will be a full programme of talks by local archaeologists and a buffet lunch. Cost £12 per person (lunch is £9.75). For details and booking form telephone the CNWRS on 01524 593770 or 592150 before 28th Feb.

If you would like to share transport with other members of our group then contact Martin on 017683 61633.

## FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY FAIR

Cumbria Family History Society are holding a fair on **Saturday 1st April** at **Trinity School, Carlisle**. There are a large number of exhibitors and experts taking part and two lectures on Researching Family History and Researching the History of your House. It is to be held between 10.00am and 4.00pm and costs £1.50. For further information Telephone 01931 714305.

## WALK AROUND KIRKLAND

Time to get your walking boots out with our first archaeology walk of the year. We will be visiting Bank Wood prehistoric settlement and the Hanging Walls of Mark Antony cultivation terraces. Meet outside Kirkland Church at **2.00pm on Sunday 14th May** for an informal afternoon with other members of the group. (Grid Ref. NY646325) *Sally*

## FIELDTRIP: BEDE'S WORLD AND JARROW MONASTERY

A chance to explore the world of the Venerable Bede, one of the most well-known scholars of the Early Middle Ages. We will be visiting the remains of Jarrow monastery and the new museum of Anglo-Saxon life. There is also a re-creation of an Anglo-Saxon farm with timber halls and monastic workshop.

The cost of the trip is £9.50 per person. There is a restaurant at the museum, alternatively please bring a packed lunch. To book a place complete the form below and return with payment to Martin Raitlon.

Meet the minibus at 10.00am at the entrance to Chapel Street Carpark Appleby on **Saturday 27th May** *Appleby*

Indoor meetings begin again in September with a full programme of talks including a look at Landscape Archaeology.

We are always looking for people to take members of the group on guided walks. If you are willing to lead a walk or know someone who will please get in touch with Martin at the number below.

## SPECIAL MEETING Local Heritage Initiative

We will be holding an informal meeting to propose and discuss possible projects for the group relating to local archaeology or built heritage. Bring along your ideas (and any details you have available) or just come along if you are willing to help.

We will meet in the usual rooms at the **Appleby Grammar School Intake Centre** at **7.00pm on Tuesday 4th April** Coffee will be available.

## Bede's World Field Trip

**Saturday 27th May 2000**

I would like to book ..... places on the field trip at £9.50 each.

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Appleby Archaeology Group.

NAME .....

TELEPHONE .....

Return to the address below (or photocopy this page). Please note that cancellations must be notified 7 days in advance of the event



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